



Many people do not realize that the Maricopa County Attorney's Office handles uncontested adoptions. Our Adoption Bureau prepares legal paperwork for adoptive parents, files adoption petitions, and represents the adoptive parents at all court hearings. Last year, approximately 400 adoptions were completed by the Bureau, including relative adoptions, private adoptions, international adoptions, DES adoptions, and other agency placements.

In an office where we see so much violence and tragedy, the Adoptions Bureau reminds us of the many giving, warmhearted people who live in our community and who are willing to provide homes for children of all backgrounds and ages. We are privileged to be able to represent adoptive parents through this process.

We hope that our representation makes adoption more affordable, as there is no cost whatsoever for our service. Prospective adoptive parents need to pay only their court filing fee and adoption agency fees.

If you are a prospective adoptive parent and would like more information about the adoption process this brochure should answer some of your questions. You may also wish to call our Adoption Bureau at (480) 969-1551.

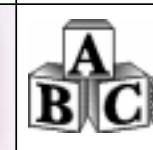
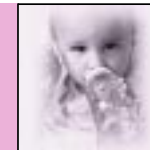
Sincerely,

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# ADOPTION BUREAU



## What Is an Uncontested Adoption?

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MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
RICHARD M. ROMLEY  
County Attorney

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office handles uncontested adoptions.

### What Is an Uncontested Adoption?

An uncontested adoption is an adoption in which the birth parent(s) consent(s) to the adoption; or the parental rights of the birth parent(s) have been legally terminated; or the consent cannot be obtained because the birth parents are deceased.

### Adoption Bureau Services

A variety of adoptions are handled by the Adoption Bureau. These include step-parent or other relative adoptions; agency placed children adoptions; privately placed children adoptions; foreign adoptions and foreign readoptions. The Adoption Bureau handles temporary custody matters in those cases where it is necessary, and pre- or post-birth expense matters in some cases.



### Costs Involved In the Adoption Process

There is no cost, other than a filing fee paid to the Juvenile Court and any fees assessed by the adoption agency. All of our services are provided free to adoptive parents. The services include the drafting of all adoption legal documentation, as well as legal representation at all court hearings.

### The Adoption Process

To use the County Attorney's Adoption Bureau an adoptive parent(s) must at a minimum have verbal consent(s) or termination of the birth parent(s). In private adoptions, once the adoptive parent(s) have these consent(s) or terminations they should call us at (480) 969-1551 and request an application. In other types of adoptions, adoption agencies will handle this paperwork.

- After the application and all other required documents are submitted to our office and reviewed, we will draft all necessary written consents for the birth parent(s).
- Upon receipt of the signed written consent(s), our office will call the adoptive parents to schedule an appointment to discuss and sign the petition for adoption.

- Once the petition for adoption is filed with the Juvenile Court, the final hearing will be held approximately two to six months after the filing date, depending on the type of adoption.



### About Adoption Agencies

All adoptive parent(s) must have an adoption agency working on their case. These agencies prepare a "social study" which is submitted to the Juvenile Court. (In unrelated adoptions, adoptive parent(s) must be "certified as acceptable" through the Juvenile Court. An adoption agency will

also complete the study for this process.) As a courtesy, a list of adoption agencies is enclosed with the Adoptions Bureau applications sent to adoptive parents.

### Adoption Questions

If you have questions, or would like an uncontested adoption application, please call the Adoption Bureau at (480) 969-1551.